

Message Text

SECRET

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 253189 TOSEC 160323

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SP

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY MESSAGES FOR TRANSFER OF POWER IN
SPAIN

FOLLOWING DRAFT MESSAGES ARE PROPOSED FOR USE IN THE
EVENT FRANCO TRANSFERS POWER TO JUAN CARLOS. NSC INFORMED
BUT HAS NOT SEEN TEXTS.

1. PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

A. "DEAR GENERAL FRANCO: I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I
UNDERSTAND HOW DIFFICULT IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR YOU
TO DECIDE TO HAND OVER RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NEW
LEADERSHIP. I HOPE THIS ACT OF STATESMANSHIP WILL SPEE
YOUR RECOVERY.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL DO ITS UTMOST
TO WORK TOGETHER WITH SPAIN'S NEW LEADERS IN THE MONTHS
AND YEARS AHEAD. WITH BEST WISHES", SIGNED: GERALD R. FORD
"R HIGHNESS: I KNOW I CAN SPEAK FOR ALL
AMERICANS IN OFFERING OUR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT AS
YOU ASSUME YOUR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

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YOU ARE AWARE OF OUR SINCERE DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH

YOU TO BUILD ON THE ALREADY-STRONG BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO EXPAND IT AND

MAKE IT EVEN STRONGER AND MORE ENDURING. YOU ALSO CAN
BE CONFIDENT THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ALL IT
CAN TO HELP STRENGTHEN SPAIN'S ROLE IN THE WESTERN COMMU-
NITY. WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS AND BEST WISHES.

SIGNED: GERALD R. FORD."

C-THIS MESSAGE TO ARIAS MAY BE SUPERFLUOUS IF HE
RESIGNS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT ITS OMISSION WOULD
BE NOTICED.)

"DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER: I WANT YOU TO KNOW
THAT MY GOVERNMENT AND INDEED ALL AMERICANS WISH NOTHING
MORE THAN THAT SPAIN WILL TRANSCEND THE PRESENT DIFFICULT
PERIOD AND MOVE SMOOTHLY TOWARD ITS PROMISING FUTURE.
SPAIN'S NEW GOVERNMENT CAN RELY ON OUR SYMPATHETIC
UNDERSTANDING IN THIS SITUATION. WITH BEST
WISHES. SIGNED: GERALD R. FORD"

II. MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER:

"DEAR MR. MINISTER: PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT YOU CAN
COUNT ON OUR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT IN THIS DELICATE
MOMENT. WE STAND READY TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP
STRENGTHEN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND SPAIN'S ROLE IN
THE WESTERN COMMUNITY. -WITH
WARM REGARDS. SIGNED: HENRY A. KISSINGER."

III. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

A. STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT HAS LEARNED THAT GENERAL FRANCO
HAS TRANSFERRED HIS POWERS AS CHIEF
OF STATE TO PRINCE JUAN CARLOS. THE PRESIDENT HOPES GENERA
FRANCO WILL RECOVER HIS HEALTH NOW THAT THIS DIFFICULT
DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT PRINCE JUAN CARLOS A PERSONAL
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MESSAGE EXPRESSING HIS CONFIDENCE, OFFERING BEST
WISHES FOR THE FUTURE, AND LOOKING FORWARD TO FURTHER
STRENGTHENING THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES.

B. STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

THE SECRETARY HAS LEARNED THAT GENERAL FRANCO'S

WEAKENED CONDITION HAS LED TO THE TRANSFER OF POWERS OF
CHIEF OF STATE TO PRINCE JUAN CARLOS. THIS ORDERLY CHANG
OF LEADERSHIP WILL

OBVIOUSLY NOT AFFECT THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN
AND THE U.S. THE SECRETARY IS CONFIDENT THAT SPAIN,
UNDER ITS NEW LEADERSHIP, FACES A PROMISING FUTURE
AND THAT OUR CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WILL BE
EVEN FURTHER STRENGTHENED. INGERSOLL

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